



FOR RELEASE AFTER 12:30 PM
March 11, 2003

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USDA PROVIDES SECOND PHASE OF FUNDING FOR **GRAFTON WATER PLANT**

Grafton, MA - Congressman Richard E. Neal joined USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle and State Representative George Peterson, Jr. at the East Street construction site of Grafton's new water filtration plant today to present a check for nearly \$2.1 million. Grafton Water District Chairman, John H. Hall and Systems Manager, Matthew Pearson, among other District officials were on hand to accept the oversized, ceremonial check. The federal funds, which were distributed in the form of a \$1.695 million low-interest loan and \$400,000 grant, will be used to complete the construction of the districts new water filtration plant.

"With the construction of the water treatment plant the Water District will be able to use the two East Street wells at full capacity," said Grafton Water District Systems Manager, Matthew Pearson. "The grant and loan funds received are an investment into the water system, assuring that the present and future water requirements of the District will be met and that the water supplied will be of the highest quality." Plans to build the new plant began last year when two of the districts four groundwater sources were found to have higher than recommended levels of iron and manganese. The new plant will improve drinking water quality by reducing the levels of such impurities.

"It is a pleasure to be back in Grafton. Especially because our return means more funding for this great town and its residents," said USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle. "We've been working diligently with the district to ensure that Grafton has the necessary resources available to see this project through and we are enthusiastic about our role in helping to improve the water quality here." Since 1987, USDA Rural Development has obligated over \$10 million to the District for this and other water projects through the Rural Utilities Services' Water and Wastewater loan and grant program.

"A clean, safe, high quality water system is critical to all phases of everyday life," said Congressman Neal. "I'm pleased to join with USDA Rural Development in announcing this award to the citizens of Grafton."

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The Rural Utilities Service administers loans, grants and technical assistance through USDA Rural Development for the renovation or construction of public water and waste systems in rural communities. The objective of the Water and Wastewater program is to develop public water systems that reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources and improve solid waste facilities.

“This second round of funding is key to the continued improvement of Grafton’s water” said Representative George N. Peterson, Jr. (R-Grafton). “I am pleased that the USDA is able to help Grafton strive for higher quality water.”

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